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STUDY OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT OF THE NORTHERN
GULF OF CALIFORNIA

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Special Report for period ending June 30, 1973

This is a special report on minor findings in the field of entomology, fortuitously accomplished during the course of carrying out the main project of oceanographic studies in the northern Gulf of California. Standard report sections (1) "Problems", (2) "Accomplishments - Present", (3) "Accomplishments - Planned", (6) "Recommendations", (7) "Standing Order", (8) "ERTS Descriptor Forms", and (9) "Retrospective Data Requests" do not apply here.

4. Significant Results

While occupying standard oceanographic stations in the delta region of the Colorado river, two species of insects were collected which were of special interest. One of these is a single specimen of corixid bug, hitherto familiar to the investigators only as a freshwater insect, but taken swimming actively in high salinity water along with characteristic marine plankton. Further investigation showed that the species taken is well known from saline ponds, but this is apparently the first record of its occurrence in a complete marine community. A small note on this collection record was prepared for publication and sent in manuscript form to NASA. A copy of the note has been supplied by NASA to the National Technical Information Service.

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The other record is of three specimens of a Cicindelid beetle (normally a beach inhabitant) found at a night light for larval fish collection on station in the Colorado delta. The beetles were observed to light on and take off from the water surface while actively moving around the night light. There is an interesting question of whether this species (Cicindela sinaloae schrammeli Cazier) may be especially adapted for a predatory life on the surface film, while the other two (larger) species sympatric with it are restricted to hunting on land.

5. Publications

The manuscript note on the marine corixid will be sent off to a scientific journal for publication, assuming NASA approval (copy of Ms. already deposited with NASA and communicated to Natl. Tech. Inform. Service).

If further investigation of the cicindelid beetles of the northern Gulf of California produces interesting results regarding adaptations for locomotion on the surface film, a note on this will also be prepared and sent off for publication.